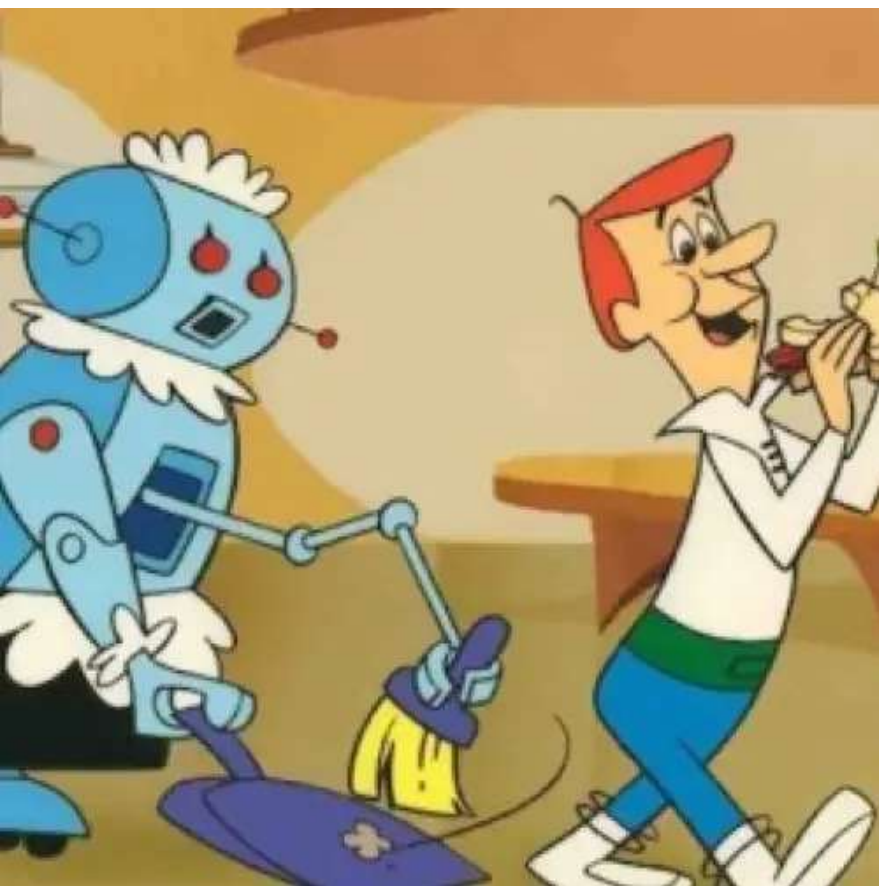**Agenda**
AI, knowledge,
& social data

1. AI from a technosocial persepective

2. Group discussions

AI as invaluable helper? OR AI as tool of oppression?

AI is "expected to mimic, augment, or displace human agency" (Joyce et al 2021, 2)

1. Theory
Flattening social data and problems

2. Implementation
Capitalist and state-sanctioned framework

3. Uses
Policing, surveillance, redlining (but also disaster management, accessibility, etc.)

4. Downstream
The output from AI is targeted at and consumed by everyone

Theory

The technosocial in *AI theory*

⋮ Social factors influence the kinds of questions that get asked, and what constitutes an 'appropriate' answer

(Kuhn 1970)

⋮ "Rendering the world technical"

Tania Murray Li & Samantha Breslin

⋮ Data representations, objective functions, analysis of outcome, etc.

(Sismondo 2009, Ch 6)

Theory

**Implem-
entation**

Uses

**Down-
stream**

The technosocial in *AI implementation*

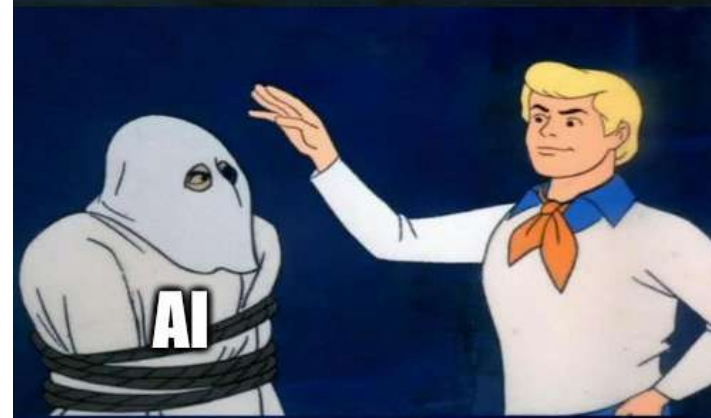⋮ Data and evidence are not 'neutral'
(Gould 1981; Amann and Knorr Cetina 1988)

⋮ Political, institutional, and economic forces favor the interests of powerful players (DeepMind, OpenAI, etc)

(Sismondo 2009, Ch 17; Wolfe 2018)

⋮ The training, testing, and provision of AI tools requires extensive (and usually exploitative) human labor

Roberts (2020)

Theory

**Implem-
entation**

Uses

**Down-
stream**

The technosocial in *AI uses*

⋮ AI and ML are used in healthcare, policing, marketing, sentencing, profiling, content moderation, …

⋮ The uses of AI are very flexible, but tend to be used more effectively by those in power

(Adams 2002)

⋮ AI may be especially compatible with oppressive structures

(Winner 1980)

AI SUPPLY CHAIN

Theory

**Implem-
entation**

Uses

**Down-
stream**

The technosocial in *AI's downstream consequences*

⋮ Everyday life is increasingly mediated by AI (social media, news articles, navigation, …)

⋮ Consumers of AI-generated content are increasingly aware of its role in, e.g., curation

⋮ AI tools are deployed to interact with AI tools

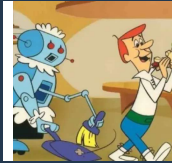⋮ AI content is 'poisoning the pool' of available training data
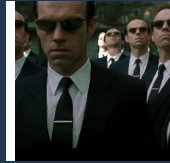

Don't get technical with me.

Local knowledge

⋮ **Allen (2018)**
Strongly Participatory Science and Knowledge Justice in an Environmentally Contested Region

Image credit

 Still from [The Jetsons (1962)](#)
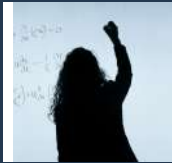
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